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Agenda items 22, 68, 98, 127, 131
and 135

PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE WORLD

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 12 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the basic documents regarding the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States adopted by the Heads of State of the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and Ukraine at Minsk on 8 December 1991 (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the agenda items 22, 68, 98, 127, 131 and 135.

(Signed) Guennadi N. BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Belarus to the United Nations

ANNEX I

DECLARATION BY THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS, THE RSFSR AND UKRAINE

We, the leaders of the Republic of Belarus, the RSFSR and Ukraine,

Noting that the talks on the drafting of a new Soviet Treaty have become deadlocked and that the de facto process of withdrawal of republics from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the formation of independent States has become a reality,

Noting that the short-sighted policy of the centre has led to a profound economic and political crisis, to the breakdown of production and to a catastrophic drop in the living standards of practically all strata of society,

Bearing in mind the growing social tension in many regions of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which has led to conflicts between nationalities with a heavy toll of victims,

Recognizing our responsibility to our peoples and the world community and the pressing need for the practical implementation of political and economic reforms,

Proclaim the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States concerning which the parties have signed an agreeement on 8 December 1991.

The Commonwealth of Independent States comprising the Republic of Belarus, the RSFSR and Ukraine is open for accession by all States members of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as well as by other States sharing the purposes and principles of this agreement.

The States members of the Commonwealth intend to pursue a policy of strengthening international peace and security. They undertake to discha[rge] the international obligations incumbent on them under treaties and agree[ments] entered into by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and are m[utually] provision for joint control over nuclear weapons and for their non-proliferation.

S. SHUSHKEVICH	B. YELTSIN	L. KRAVCHUK
Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus	President of the RSFSR	President of Ukraine

Minsk, 8 December 1991

ANNEX II

AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

We, the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation (RSFSR) and Ukraine, as founder States of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and signatories of the Union Treaty of 1922, hereinafter referred to as the High Contracting Parties, hereby declare that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a subject of international law and a geopolitical reality no longer exists.

On the basis of the historical commonality of our peoples and the ties that have developed between them, and bearing in mind the bilateral agreements concluded between High Contracting Parties,

Desirous of setting up lawfully constituted democratic States,

Intending to develop our relations on the basis of mutal recognition of and respect for State sovereignty, the inalienable right to self-determination, the principles of equality and non-intervention in internal affairs, of abstention from the use of force and from economic or other means of applying pressure and of settling controversial issues through agreement, and other universally recognized principles and norms of international law,

Considering that the further development and strengthening of relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation between our States are in accord with the vital national interests of their peoples and serve the cause of peace and security,

Confirming our adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and the other documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Undertaking to abide by the universally recognized international norms relating to human and peoples' rights,

We have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The High Contracting Parties hereby establish the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Article 2

The High Contracting Parties guarantee to their citizens, regardless of their nationality or other differences, equal rights and freedoms. Each of the High Contracting Parties guarantees to the citizens of the other Parties, and also to stateless persons resident in their territory, regardless of

national affiliation or other differences, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights and freedoms in accordance with the universally recognized international norms relating to human rights.

Article 3

The High Contracting Parties, desirous of facilitating the expression, preservation and development of the distinctive ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious characteristics of the national minorities resident in their territories and of the unique ethno-cultural regions that have come into being, will extend protection to them.

Article 4

The High Contracting Parties will develop equitable and mutually advantageous cooperation between their peoples and States in the spheres of politics, economics, culture, education, health care, environmental protection, science and trade and in the humanitarian and other spheres, will promote the broad exchange of information and will discharge their mutual obligations conscientiously and in full.

The Parties deem it necessary to conclude an agreement on cooperation in the above-mentioned spheres.

Article 5

The High Contracting Parties acknowledge and respect each other's territorial integrity and the inviolability of existing borders within the Commonwealth.

They guarantee openness of borders, freedom of movement of citizens and freedom of transmission of information within the Commonwealth.

Article 6

The States members of the Commonwealth will cooperate in safeguarding international peace and security and implementing effective measures for the reduction of armaments and military expenditures. They are striving to eliminate all nuclear weapons and achieve universal and complete disarmament under strict international control.

The Parties will respect each other's efforts to achieve the status of a nuclear-free zone and a neutral State.

The States members of the Commonwealth will maintain, and retain under joint command, a common military and strategic space, including joint control over nuclear weapons, the procedure for implementing which will be regulated by a special agreement.

They also jointly guarantee the necessary conditions for the deployment and functioning and the material and social security of the strategic armed forces. The Parties undertake to pursue an agreed policy on issues of the social welfare and provision of pensions for military personnel and their families.

Article 7

The High Contracting Parties recognize that the sphere of their joint activity, conducted on an equitable basis through common coordinating institutions of the Commonwealth, embraces:

- coordination of foreign policy;
- cooperation in the formation and development of a common economic space and Europe-wide and Eurasian markets and in the field of customs policy;
- cooperation in developing the transport and communications systems;
- cooperation in the protection of the environment and participation in establishing a comprehensive international system of environmental security;
- issues of migration policy;
- combating organized crime.

Article 8

The Parties recognize the planet-wide nature of the Chernobyl disaster, and undertake to unite and coordinate their efforts to minimize and overcome its consequences.

They have agreed to conclude for these purposes a special agreement which takes into account the seriousness of the disaster's consequences.

Article 9

Disputes regarding the interpretation and application of the provisions of this Agreement shall be resolved by means of negotiations between the appropriate organs, and if necessary at the state and governmental level.

Article 10

Each of the High Contracting Parties reserves the right to suspend the application of this Agreement or individual articles thereof by giving the Parties to the Agreement one year's notice of such suspension.

The provisions of this Agreement may be supplemented or modified by mutual agreement among the High Contracting Parties.

Article 11

From the moment of signature of the present Agreement, application of the laws of third States, including the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, shall not be permitted in the territories of the signatory States.

Article 12

The High Contracting Parties undertake to discharge the international obligations incumbent on them under treaties and agreements entered into by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 13

This Agreement shall not affect the obligations of the High Contracting Parties towards third States.

This Agreement is open for accession by all States members of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and also by other States sharing the purposes and principles of this Agreement.

Article 14

The official location of the coordinating organs of the Commonwealth shall be the city of Minsk.

The activities of organs of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the territories of the States members of the Commonwealth are hereby terminated.

Done at Minsk on 8 December 1991 in three copies, each in the Byelorussian, Russian and Ukrainian languages, the three texts being equally authentic.

For the Republic of Belarus	For the RSFSR	For Ukraine
S. SHUSHKEVICH	B. YELTSIN	L. KRAVCHUK
B. KEBICH	G. BURBULIS	V. FOKIN

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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/46/L.30

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahmoud BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

1. At its 51st meeting, on 13 December 1991, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/62) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/46/L.30. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions presented the Committee's report orally.

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

2. The Fifth Committee decided, without a vote, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/46/L.30, an additional appropriation of $163,300 would be required under section 2 (Good offices and peace-making; peace-keeping; research and the collection of information) of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, these additional requirements should be provided without recourse to the contingency fund. In addition, an additional appropriation of $35,000 would be required under section 36 (Staff assessment), offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) (A/46/749) and the United Nations Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) (A/46/757). During its consideration of the items, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Advisory Committee.

2. In view of the late submission of the Secretary-General's report on the financing of UNDOF and UNIFIL and the urgent need for the General Assembly to complete its consideration and appropriate the necessary funds for this operation, the Advisory Committee is presenting only an abbreviated report on these items which summarizes its recommendations. It is hoped that in future the Advisory Committee can revert to its traditional format for analysis of the Secretary-General's proposals and submission of its recommendations thereon.

UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

3. As indicated in paragraph 4 of A/46/749, assessments totalling $956.8 million had been apportioned among Member States in respect of UNDOF and the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) for the period from inception to 30 November 1991, against which contributions totalling $901.8 million have

been received. The Secretary-General states that the outstanding balance of $55 million includes an amount of $36 million transferred to a special account in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/116 A, leaving an amount due of $19 million as at 30 November 1991.

4. According to paragraph 10 of the report, the interim financial statement of 30 June 1991 for UNEF/UNDOF covering the period from 1 December 1989 to 30 November 1990 indicates that the account shows a "surplus" balance of $6,790,883, representing excess of income over expenditure; "income" includes assessed contributions, irrespective of collectibility.

5. The Secretary-General proposes in paragraph 11 of his report to suspend the provisions of financial regulations 4.3, 4.4, 5.2(b) and 5.2(d) in respect of the surplus balance and that it be entered into the suspense account. In view of the status of assessed contributions to UNDOF and that full reimbursement in accordance with the standard rates of reimbursement have been made on a current basis to troop-contributing States (para. 9 of the report), the Committee sees no need for a suspension of the financial regulations and therefore recommends that the surplus be credited to Member States. The Committee intends to examine, at a later stage, the rate at which outstanding obligations, in respect of all peace-keeping operations, are liquidated.

6. In section V of the report, the Secretary-General estimates the cost for the renewal of UNDOF would be $3,564,000 gross ($3,472,500 net) per month from 1 December 1991 onwards; the total costs for the period from 1 December 1991 to 30 November 1992 are estimated at $42,768,000 gross ($41,670,000 net), as shown in annexes III and IV of the report.

7. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of $20,679,000 gross ($20,199,000 net) authorized and apportioned in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 45/243 for UNDOF for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1991 and approve the estimates of the Secretary-General for the period from 1 December 1991 to 30 November 1992 in the amount of $42,768,000 gross ($41,670,000 net). The Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate and assess an amount of $21,384,000 gross ($20,835,000 net) for the period from 1 December 1991 to 31 May 1992 and subject to the decision to be taken by the Security Council on the renewal of UNDOF after 31 May 1992, gave commitment authorization not exceeding $3,564,000 gross ($3,472,500 net) per month for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1992.

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

8. As indicated in paragraph 4 of A/46/757, assessments totalling $1,985.7 million had been apportioned among Member States in respect of UNIFIL for the period from inception to 31 January 1992, against which contributions totalling $1,685.2 million have been received. The Secretary-General states that the outstanding balance of $300.5 million includes an amount of $19.6 million transferred to a special account in accordance with General

Assembly resolution 36/116 A, leaving an amount due of $280.9 million as at 30 November 1991.

9. The Committee was informed that the interim financial statement of 30 June 1991 for UNIFIL covering the 12-month period from 1 February 1989 to 31 January 1990 shows a "surplus" balance of $8,235,545, representing excess of income over expenditure; "income" includes assessed contributions, irrespective of collectibility.

10. The Committee notes from paragraph 12 of the report that initial reimbursement to Governments is being made at the rate of $750 per person per month for pay and allowances for troops as part of the approved rate of $988; as at 31 October 1991, a total of $146,400 was due to troop-contributing States for troop costs and $13.1 million for the cost of contingent-owned equipment (para. 14).

11. In view of the unpaid assessments, the Secretary-General proposes the suspension of the provisions of financial regulations 4.3, 4.4, 5.2(b) and 5.2(d) in respect of the surplus balance. In view of its observations in paragraph 2 above, and bearing in mind the Committee's view that suspension of these financial regulations should be on a case-by-case basis, the Advisory Committee intends to review this matter in the context of the report it has requested in paragraph 17 below.

12. In section V and annexes III and IV of his report, the Secretary-General estimates the costs of UNIFIL for the period from 1 February 1992 to 31 January 1993 at $160,044,000 gross ($157,068,000 net), or $13,337,000 gross ($13,089,000 net) per month.

13. The Committee recalls that the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council, at the request of the Council, a report (S/22129/Add.1 of 28 January 1991) concerning the review of the scale and deployment of UNIFIL and recommended the streamlining of the Force, resulting in savings of some 10 per cent in the Force's military strength. The Committee understands that the proposals are still with the Council and may have budgetary implications.

14. The Committee expresses its concern about the disproportionate increase in civilian staff costs from $15.7 million in 1990-1991 to $22.1 million in 1992-1993. The Committee was informed that the vacancy factor used for 1992-1993 is 18 per cent compared to an average of 29 per cent from February 1991 to January 1992. The Committee is of the view that it is unlikely that in 1992 the vacancy rate would be reduced from 29 to 18 per cent in view of the large number of new missions and the continued need to redeploy staff from established missions; the Committee recommends that the projected vacancy rate be adjusted, which will result in savings. The Committee further recommends a review of the basis and frequency of the salary scales for local staff, taking into account the payment by other agencies in the area. The Committee was informed that as at 30 September 1991, 132 local employees were on board, financed by general temporary assistance ($1,194,000), in addition to the established 208 local level posts (annex V). The Committee believes

that the total number of established and temporary local staff apart from personnel under contractual services ($400,000) is high and that there is a possibility for savings. The Committee further notes that the temporary staff are part of the UNIFIL establishment and should be listed in the staffing table.

15. The Committee notes that the cost estimates for premises are proposed to increase from $2.7 million in 1990-1991 to $5.0 million in 1992-1993, including the construction of a new headquarters building (annex IV, paras. 17 to 21). The Committee was not fully convinced of the need for such a substantial increase and is of the view that economies could be made. With regard to transportation, the Committee notes the proposed purchase of 157 new vehicles for replacement at a cost of $4.3 million and a provision of $5.3 million for vehicle spare parts and commercial repairs (annex IV, paras. 23 to 28). The Committee believes that there is a need for economy in the purchase and maintenance of vehicles.

16. The Committee notes from annex III that the provision for the support account for peace-keeping operations is decreasing from $2,151,000 in 1990-1991 to $1,876,000 in 1992-1993 while the civilian staff costs in the mission area are increasing considerably during the same period (see para. 14 above). The Committee points out that over the last two years the applied average ratio at UNIFIL was substantially higher than approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/258; the Advisory Committee intends to review the current rate and the methodology on which it is based in 1992 in the context of its review of the budgets and financial status of the various peace-keeping operations.

17. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate $153,468,000 gross ($150,684,000 net) authorized under General Assembly resolution 45/244 for the period from 1 February 1991 to 31 January 1992. Subject to the decision of the Security Council on the renewal of UNIFIL after 31 January 1992, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve commitment authority up to the level of $13,337,000 gross ($13,089,000 net) per month with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee. In view of its recommendations in paragraphs 14 to 16 above, the Committee expects that economies will be made and be reflected in a performance report for that period which the Committee requests at its spring session. On that basis, and subject to the decision of the Security Council on the renewal of UNIFIL after 31 July 1992, the Advisory Committee will make its recommendations as to the actual requirements necessary.

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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) (A/46/759). During its consideration of the above item, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Advisory Committee.

2. In view of the late submission of the Secretary-General's report on the financing of UNAVEM and the urgent need for the General Assembly to complete its consideration and appropriate the necessary funds for this operation, the Advisory Committee is presenting only an abbreviated report on this matter that summarizes its recommendations. It is hoped that in future reports the Advisory Committee can revert to its traditional format for analysis of the Secretary-General's proposals and submission of its recommendations thereon.

3. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the report, assessments totalling $66.8 million have been apportioned to Member States in respect of UNAVEM for the period from inception to 30 November 1991, against which contributions totalling $43.8 million have been received, leaving a balance due of $23 million. The Secretary-General recommends in paragraph 14 of his report that no action be taken at this time in connection with the projected net unencumbered balance of $1,021,200, as well as the interest and miscellaneous income of $443,100 and that those amounts be retained in the UNAVEM II Special Account pending the receipt of the outstanding assessed contributions". In view of the deficit of $21.3 million in the UNAVEM account, the Advisory Committee does not object to the Secretary-General's recommendation at this stage; however, it intends to review the question of crediting unencumbered balances to Member States at a later stage.

4. In paragraph 13 of the report, the Secretary-General estimates the revised cost for the remaining 10-month period of UNAVEM II from 1 January to

31 October 1992 at $53,595,900 gross ($52,577,500 net), representing a reduction of $9,854,600 gross ($10,149,000 net) from the initial cost estimates (A/45/1028). In this connection, no provision is made for the costs associated to the closing of the Mission at the end of the current mandate period.

5. The Committee recalls that substantial savings were made in military and civilian personnel and staff costs for the period from 1 June to 31 December 1991 due the late phasing-in of personnel. The Committee was informed that United Nations personnel may not be deployed to 4 of 50 assembly areas, as envisaged in the operational plan (A/45/1028, para. 11 (f)), for security reasons and due to logistical difficulties. The Committee understands that the planned 350 military observers and 90 police observers is at present not at full strength and varies during their rotation in the mission area, which will result in further savings.

6. The Secretary-General proposes, in annex VI, paragraph 3, of the report to establish one additional P-4 post (political officer) and one P-3 (interpreter/translator); no explanation is provided in his report. The Committee was not convinced of the need of an additional political officer, in addition to the current senior political adviser (D-1), and does not concur in that proposal; however, the Committee has no objection to an additional interpreter/translator in view of the operational requirements.

7. The Secretary-General proposes, in annex VI, paragraph 5 (a), the purchase of 40 additional vehicles at an average of $14,200. The Committee is of the view that the acquisition of 40 new vehicles can be reduced, taking into account that a 374-vehicle fleet was established at UNAVEM in 1991 and that a large part of the mission is carried out by air operations.

8. The Committee notes that the estimates for air operations, including $9.6 million for helicopter operations and $8.5 million for fixed-wing aircraft are high, taking into account the substantial savings during the period from 1 June to 31 December 1991. The Committee was not fully convinced of the need for the continued commercial hiring of 12 medium-size utility helicopters for ten months at a monthly rent of $70,400 per unit for 55 minimum monthly flight hours and 3 fixed-wing aircraft for $6.7 million until the completion of the mission. The Committee believes that there is a possibility for savings without affecting the mandate of UNAVEM.

9. In view of its observations in paragraphs 5 to 8 above and taking into account the possibility for other savings and the number of uncertainties with regard to the scope of the operation, the Committee recommends that an amount of $42,876,720 gross ($42,062,000 net) be appropriated and assessed at this stage and that additional commitment authority up to $10,719,180 gross ($10,515,500 net) be authorized with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the basis of a performance report on UNAVEM to be submitted to the Advisory Committee at its spring 1992 session.

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PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE WORLD

RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS; HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 6 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Declaration on the Rights of Nationalities in Ukraine, adopted by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine on 1 November 1991 (see annex).

I request you to circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under items 22, 93, 98 (a) and (b).

(Signed) Guennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

ANNEX

Declaration on the rights of nationalities in Ukraine, adopted by the Parliament of Ukraine on 1 November 1991

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,

Basing itself on the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine, the Act Proclaiming the Independence of Ukraine, and in the light of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and International Covenants on rights and freedoms of individuals ratified by Ukraine,

Endeavouring to consolidate in an independent, democratic Ukraine the sacred principles of freedom, humanitarianism, social justice and equality of all ethnic groups in Ukraine,

Keeping in mind that on the territory of Ukraine live citizens of more than 100 nationalities, who together with Ukrainians constitute the 52-million population of Ukraine,

Adopts this Declaration on the Rights of Nationalities in Ukraine:

Article 1

The Ukrainian State guarantees all peoples, national groups, citizens, who live on its territory, all political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Representatives of peoples and national groups shall be elected on the basis of equal rights to government organs of all levels, can assume any post in administrative organs, business enterprises, institutions and organizations.

Discrimination on the ground of nationality is forbidden and punishable under law.

Article 2

The Ukrainian State guarantees all nationalities the right to preserve their traditional settlements and ensures the existence of national-administrative units, and assumes the responsibility to create appropriate conditions for the development of all national languages and cultures.

Article 3

The Ukrainian State guarantees all peoples and national groups the right to use their native languages in all spheres of social life, including education, employment, receiving and disseminating information.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine interprets Article 3 of the Law on Languages on the Ukrainian SSR in such a manner that within the boundaries of administrative-territorial units, which are densely populated by certain nationalities, its language can function on a level equal to that of the State language.

The Ukrainian State guarantees its citizens the unimpeded use of the Russian language. In regions densely inhabited by several nationalities, the accepted language of that area can function on a level equal to that of the State language.

Article 4

All citizens of Ukraine, of each nationality, are guaranteed the right to profess their religions, use their national symbols, observe their national holidays, and participate in the traditional rituals of their peoples.

Article 5

Historical and cultural relics of all peoples and national groups on the territory of Ukraine are protected by law.

Article 6

The Ukrainian State guarantees all nationalities the right to establish their cultural centres, societies, regional organizations and associations. These organizations can conduct activities aimed at developing national cultures, hold in conformity with the existing laws mass actions, promote the establishing newspapers, magazines, publishing companies, museums, artistic ensembles, theatres and film studios.

Article 7

National cultural centres and societies and representatives of national minorities have the right to unhindered contacts with their historical native land.

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RETURN OR RESTITUTION OF CULTURAL
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ORIGIN
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 13 December 1991 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Government of Palestine, to bring the following to your immediate attention.

Israeli violence and illegal practices continues and is escalating against the Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. Israel's iron-fist policy is still on the rise. This reflected itself not only in the prolonged curfews imposed and the cruel treatment of the Palestinians, but also in an increase in the settlers illegal activities in the occupied territory. The Israeli occupying Power is expanding, and at a fast pace, the building of settlements and the confiscation of homes and lands of Palestinians, the latest of which is the confiscation of six Palestinian homes in the neighbourhood of Silwan in East Jerusalem. Moreover, the Israeli cabinet endorsed and approved the take-over, as well as the building, of 200 new housing units in Silwan. All of this will take place under the protection of the Israeli police. In the meantime, many Palestinian families are being displaced and remain homeless.

These violations by the occupying Power, Israel, cannot and should not continue. The international community and particularly the United Nations as a body snould act effectively and responsibly to stop these violations and in protection of the Palestinian people living under the inhumane and illegal occupation of the Palestinian territory; and furthermore, to ensure respect of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949.

Palestine calls upon the United Nations to intervene in this matter for the protection of Palestinians and for safeguarding the peace talks that are under way. This behaviour is not encouraging and will not enhance the peace process.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 23, 35 and 75, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of
Palestine to the United Nations

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Agenda item 37

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 13 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach a copy of a press statement issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, regarding resolutions adopted today by the General Assembly concerning South Africa (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 37.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, issued at Pretoria, on 13 December 1991

The United Nations General Assembly has again adopted a series of resolutions on South Africa, while flash points and immense economic problems elsewhere cry out for attention. However, it was at least encouraging to note that the United Nations was at last recognizing important political developments in South Africa. These included the recent signing of the National Peace Accord, the accession by South Africa to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the convening of the preparatory meeting for the Convention for a Democratic South Africa and the agreement between the Government and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the return of exiles. This represents a considerable advance on the attitude of the United Nations over previous years. Specific recognition of the progress made in overcoming obstacles to negotiations was another important step forward by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly's decision to resume academic, scientific, sport and cultural links confirmed that sanctions were crumbling, despite its continuing short-sightedness on financial and trade sanctions. It was essential for the progress and well-being of South Africa's people that the Assembly should support economic growth rather than inhibit it.

I welcome the fact that a number of delegations of important countries had adopted strong positive positions in the debate.

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Forty-sixth session
Agenda items 98 and 107

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions VII, II, III and XIX adopted by the Third Committee in its report (A/46/721, paras. 102 and 103) and draft decision II

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahmoud BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

1. At its 51st and 52nd meetings, on 13 December 1991, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/58) on the programme budget implications of draft resolutions VII, II, III and XIX and draft decision II adopted by the Third Committee in its report (A/46/721, paras. 102 and 103). The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman.

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/46/SR.51 and 52).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided, without a vote, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt:

(i) draft resolution VII an additional appropriation of $400,000 would be required under section 31 and a decrease of $34,000 under

section 28. The net appropriation of $366,000 would constitute an additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and would therefore be subject to the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987;

(ii) draft resolutions II, III and XIX and draft decision II, no additional appropriation would be required.

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Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 35

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 11 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a Declaration of the European Council on the peace process in the Middle East, issued on 9 December 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 35.

(Signed) Robert J. van SCHAIK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration on the peace process in the Middle East

The European Council attaches great significance to the Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid, which has launched a process of negotiations on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 which should lead to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question. On the basis of the principles that have long governed their position, the Community and its member States are determined to continue to undertake all possible efforts alongside the United States and the Soviet Union to support this process. In Madrid they pledged their constructive partnership in all phases of the negotiations.

The European Council considers it of vital importance that the momentum gained at Madrid is not dissipated on procedural matters. It noted that the second round of bilateral negotiations has been convened in Washington. These negotiations should be pursued in good faith by all parties. Only then may the way be opened to movement on substance and meaningful confidence-building measures. The European Council considers a halt to Israel's settlement activity in the occupied territories an essential contribution to creating the stable environment that progress in the negotiations requires. Renunciation of the Arab trade boycott is another.

With regard to the situation in the occupied territories, it is important that both sides show restraint and that Israel abide by the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The European Council looks forward to a tangible improvement in the situation in these territories, even before the putting in place of interim or other arrangements. In this respect, it notes reports indicating that since the Conference in Madrid, the level of violence there has diminished. Indeed, this Conference has led to an atmosphere of hope, both in the occupied territories and elsewhere, which should not be disappointed.

The European Council reaffirms the commitment of the Community and its member States to make an active practical contribution to progress in the multilateral phase of the negotiations on regional cooperation. It expresses the hope that all parties in the region will participate in these negotiations. The European Council considers that the bilateral and multilateral agendas should go hand in hand, each one reinforcing the other. However, regional cooperation cannot progress faster than movement towards a political settlement. Given its close ties with all the parties involved, the Community and its member States are determined to remain in close contact with all participants and to do all they can to promote significant steps in the direction of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 11 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a Declaration of the European Council on developments in the Soviet Union, issued on 10 December 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 68.

(Signed) Robert J. van SCHAIK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration on developments in the Soviet Union

The European Council took note of the decision of the Republics of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia to form a "Commonwealth of Independent States", which other Republics have been invited to join. It also took note of President Gorbachev's statement on 9 December 1991.

The European Council underlines the necessity for a constructive dialogue among all parties concerned to ensure that the process of transformation of the Soviet Union, which has entered a crucial phase, continues in a peaceful, democratic and orderly manner.

The European Council welcomes the fact that the three Republics engaged in this comprehensive process of change have declared that they mutually recognize and respect each other's territorial integrity and the inviolability of the borders existing in the context of their Commonwealth.

The European Council is pleased to note that these Republics have at the same time reaffirmed their readiness to respect the international commitments of the Soviet Union and to ensure single control of nuclear weapons on their territory.

The European Council recalls the importance that the Community and its member States attach to respect for and implementation by all Republics of all provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other relevant provisions of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe regarding human rights and the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. It also recalls that according to these provisions, the frontiers of all States in Europe are inviolable and can only be changed by peaceful means and agreement. Furthermore, the Community and its member States attach particular importance to necessary measures being taken without delay at the level of the Republics concerned to put into effect the agreements in the field of arms control, nuclear non-proliferation and the effective control and security of nuclear weapons. The Community and its member States also subscribe to the principle that Republics acceding to sovereignty should, for their part, respect the obligations deriving from the external debt of the Soviet Union.

At a moment when these Republics express democratically and peacefully their will to accede to full sovereignty, the Community and its member States wish to open with them, in a spirit of cooperation, a dialogue regarding the development of their mutual relationship.

The European Council also expresses the wish that these Republics develop among themselves the structures of cooperation required to facilitate their insertion in the international community under conditions appropriate to ensure the security, stability and legitimate fulfilment of all.

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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahmoud BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with subject-matters assigned to other Main Committees would be referred also to those Committees.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Fifth Committee had before it the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, 1/ a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the work programme of the Unit for 1991 and the nucleus of its work programme for 1992-1993 (A/46/89) and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit (A/46/219).

3. The Committee considered the item at its 10th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 24th, 32nd and 45th meetings, on 17, 21, 23 and 31 October, 6 and 12 November and 5 December 1991. Comments and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/46/SR.10, 12, 13, 18, 24, 32 and 45).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/46/34).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DECISION A/C.5/46/L.4

4. At the 45th meeting, on 5 December 1991, following informal consultations, the representative of Hungary introduced a draft decision (A/C.5/46/L.4).

5. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/46/L.4, without objection (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

(a) Acknowledges receipt of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit covering the period 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991; 1/

(b) Takes note of the work programme of the Unit as contained in the note by the Secretary-General; 2/

(c) Recalls its decision 45/450 of 21 December 1990, in which it welcomed the intention of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to increase its efforts to report on specific matters of system-wide concern, such as conference services, procurement and agency support costs, and in this connection encourages the Joint Inspection Unit to continue its efforts to comply with paragraph 2 (a) of General Assembly resolution 45/237 of 21 December 1990;

(d) Recalls also General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, as well as articles 2 and 3 of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, and in this regard welcomes the fact that the consultation process for selecting candidates as inspectors as stipulated in the statute was adhered to during the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, and recommends that the process be strictly followed in the future;

(e) Is concerned about the reporting on performance and results of United Nations programmes and invites the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to consider anew the 1988 report of the Joint Inspection Unit in this regard and to report thereon to the Assembly;

2/ A/46/89.

(f) Notes with concern late issuance of comments by the executive heads of organizations concerned or the Adminstrative Committee on Coordination on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, and requests the executive heads to observe strictly the time-limits for commenting on Joint Inspection Unit reports as provided for under article 11, paragraphs 4 (d) and (e) of its statute;

(g) Requests the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions within its mandate and with due respect to the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit to examine the functioning of the Joint Inspection Unit, including the proposals contained in paragraphs 12 to 16 of its 1991 report, and to submit, with a view to enhancing the Unit's productivity and performance, recommendations taking into account the views of the Joint Inspection Unit on this subject, to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

(h) Decides to conduct at its forty-seventh session the in-depth discussion of the annual reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, for 1990-1991 and 1991-1992, and to consider at the same session the desirability and possibility of biennializing this item of the agenda in the context of ongoing efforts to improve the work of the Fifth Committee by, inter alia, biennializing items of its agenda.

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ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Letter dated 11 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a Declaration of the European Council on racism and xenophobia, issued on 9 December 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 92.

(Signed) Robert J. van SCHAIK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration on racism and xenophobia

The European Council notes with concern that manifestations of racism and xenophobia are steadily growing in Europe, both in the member States of the Community and elsewhere.

The European Council stresses the undiminished validity of international obligations with regard to combating discrimination and racism to which the member States have committed themselves within the framework of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The European Council recalls the Declaration against racism and xenophobia issued by the European Parliament, Council and Commission on 11 June 1986 and, reaffirming its Declaration issued in Dublin on 26 June 1990, expresses its revulsion against racist sentiments and manifestations. These manifestations, including expressions of prejudice and violence against foreign immigrants and exploitation of them, are unacceptable.

The European Council expresses its conviction that respect for human dignity is essential to the Europe of the Community and that combating discrimination in all its forms is therefore vital to the European Community, as a community of States governed by the rule of law. The European Council therefore considers it necessary that the Governments and Parliaments of the member States should act clearly and unambiguously to counter the growth of sentiments and manifestations of racism and xenophobia.

The European Council asks Ministers and the Commission to increase their efforts to combat discrimination and xenophobia and to strengthen the legal protection for third country nationals in the territories of the member States.

Lastly, the European Council notes that, in connection with the upheavals in Eastern Europe, similar sentiments of intolerance and xenophobia are manifesting themselves in extreme forms of nationalism and ethnocentrism. The policies of the Community and its member States towards the countries concerned will aim to discourage strongly such manifestations.

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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, the Security Council established, under its authority, a United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in accordance with the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report 1/ and decided that the transitional period would begin no later than 16 weeks after the General Assembly approved a budget for the Mission. On 17 May 1991, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/266 on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

2. In adopting resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991, the General Assembly took, inter alia, the following actions:

> "2. Approves, in principle, the budgetary estimates proposed by the Secretary-General for United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (180,617,000 gross, 176,868,000 dollars net), as contained in his report (A/45/241/Add.1) for the mandate period approved by the Security Council in its resolution 690 (1991) ...
>
> "3. Decides to appropriate an initial amount of 143 million dollars gross (140 million dollars net), inclusive of the amount of 889,700 dollars authorized with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for pre-implementation expenses under the terms of General Assembly resolution 44/203 of 21 December 1989, for the operation of the Mission in accordance with the time-table set out in paragraph 10 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/241/Add.1);
>
> "4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a detailed performance report for the first six months of the operation to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and to take all necessary measures to ensure that the operation is administered with the maximum of efficiency and economy, bearing in mind the observations and recommendations contained in paragraphs 10 to 18 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/45/1011);
>
> "5. Decides to consider at its forty-sixth session the appropriations required to finance the Mission for the remaining three-month mandate period in the light of the performance report referred to in paragraph 4 of the present resolution;".

3. In a letter dated 3 September 1991, the Secretary-General transmitted a note 2/ to the Security Council regarding the implementation of the cease-fire. The note expressed the Secretary-General's concern at recent developments along the international frontier and notified the Council that the Secretary-General had "decided that United Nations efforts should be concentrated, at this stage, in the areas referred to in the note." Paragraphs 1 to 4 of the note state as follows:

"1. In the context of the United Nations plan (S/21360 of 18 June 1990 and S/22464 of 19 April 1991), and bearing in mind the fact that the parties have accepted 6 September as the date of the cease-fire, the Secretary-General intends to deploy, as of that date, military observers to verify the cease-fire and the cessation of hostilities in the areas referred to below.

"2. In the wake of recent developments, 10 observation posts have been selected at this stage for the deployment of some 10 observers: Aguenit, Awsard, Bir Laulou, Mahbes, Meharrize, Mijek, Oum Dreyga, Smara, Tifariti, Zug.

"3. Staff deployed in this specific context will consist of 240 persons, including about 100 military observers and a small medical team. The remainder will be responsible for command and control functions, logistical support and communications.

"4. It is understood that full deployment of MINURSO will not begin until the activities set forth in the timetable for the plan are well under way."

4. By letter dated 4 September 1991, 3/ the President of the Security Council notified the Secretary-General that the members of the Council endorsed his action and continued to support his efforts.

II. STATUS OF ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS

5. As at 30 November 1991, assessments totalling $140,911,223 had been apportioned among Member States to finance the MINURSO operation pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/266. As summarized below, contributions received as at 30 November 1991 amount to $57.9 million. Assessed contributions still outstanding thus amount to $82.9 million.

Table 1

Status of contributions for MINURSO as at 30 November 1991

	United States dollars
Amount appropriated	143 000 000
Less: Applied credits	(2 088 777)
Amount apportioned	140 911 223
Less: Payments received	(57 963 114)
Balance due	82 948 109

III. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

6. In paragraph 13 of resolution 45/266, the General Assembly renewed its invitation to Member States to make voluntary contributions to MINURSO both in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General. For the period under review, voluntary contributions as outlined below have been received. The full valuation of the contributions will be provided at a later stage as the processing of the related information is completed.

Contributor	Services provided
Algeria	Accommodation premises, office space and fuel
Morocco	Accommodation premises, office space, fuel, food, air transportation and land transportation
Frente POLISARIO	Accommodation premises, office space and food
Switzerland	Aircraft in support of the medical unit 30 support personnel

IV. PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 17 MAY TO 30 NOVEMBER 1991

7. Annex I provides a summary of the apportionment, by budget-line item, of the amount initially appropriated to MINURSO under General Assembly resolution 45/266 beginning 17 May 1991, as well as projected costs up to 30 November 1991. Supplementary details are provided under each line item in annex II.

Operational observations

8. As indicated in the last report to the General Assembly (A/45/241/Add.1), MINURSO was planned to function as an integrated operation under the overall authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The implementation plan included the following main elements:

(a) Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, headquartered at Laayoune;

(b) A military unit with a strength of 1,695 all ranks and consisting of 550 military observers, an infantry battalion of 700, an air support group of 110, a signals unit of 45, a medical unit of 50, a military police company of 40 and a logistic battalion of 200;

(c) A civilian unit consisting of up to 561 international and 459 local staff.

9. In accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 above, 234 military observers have been deployed in the mission area to date. The general headquarters and regional offices in the northern and southern sectors of the territory have been established. A medical unit has been fully deployed as well as a communications unit. With the cooperation of the parties, the Kingdom of Morocco and Frente POLISARIO, 10 military observation posts have been established. A liaison office has also been established in Tindouf, with the assistance of the Government of Algeria.

10. The number of international staff currently assigned to MINURSO total 132, as detailed in annex III. Due to unforeseen political difficulties exacerbated by the complexity of the issues at hand, it has not proved possible to carry out all the tasks foreseen in the plan prior to the commencement of the transition period. The Secretary-General and his Special Representative have been engaged in detailed consultations with the parties in order to resolve the outstanding problems and pave the way to smooth implementation of various stages of the process leading to the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum.

11. Some of the tasks foreseen in the agreed timetable prior to D-Day have been accomplished. In addition, a number of preparatory measures for the full deployment of MINURSO, including in particular the technical and material aspects, have been taken in order to proceed expeditiously once the present difficulties have been overcome. These difficulties pertain especially to the process of identification of Saharans eligible to participate in the referendum. It will be noted, in this regard, that the preparation of the list of participants is a key element in the holding of the referendum. The parties have tended to interpret the plan differently with regard to the implementation of this part of the process. They also have divergent views regarding certain other steps foreseen in the process, including the confinement of troops and the movement to the territory of refugees and other Saharans living outside.

12. As for the question of repatriation of refugees organized under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), it will be recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 60 of the report of the Secretary-General 1/ and further to paragraph 8 of document A/45/1011, the Secretary-General pursued the efforts to raise voluntary contributions. A donors' meeting was organized and chaired by him at Geneva. Pledges made at that meeting and the subsequent follow-up action have yielded encouraging results. It is understood that the pledged contributions in cash and in kind are adequate for UNHCR to set the repatriation process in motion.

V. COST ESTIMATES FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD FROM 1 DECEMBER 1991 TO 29 FEBRUARY 1992

13. The Secretary-General is of the view that until such time as satisfactory progress is achieved regarding the problems alluded to above, MINURSO operation should comprise the most essential activities. In paragraph 12 of his report, 1/ the Secretary-General had indicated "that the periods of time allowed for the various processes in the timetable are estimates" and that depending on circumstances these may be shorter or longer than foreseen. Under the circumstances, therefore, a certain delay is likely requiring consultations and overall analysis of the situation to determine appropriate adjustments to the implementation plan.

14. In the meantime, the Secretary-General considers it appropriate to maintain the operational costs of MINURSO at a level consistent with the position outlined above for the period up to the end of February 1991, or until the present political problems are resolved, whichever comes first. By that time, the Secretary-General will be in a position to provide the Assembly with revised estimates of the full requirements of MINURSO operation.

15. The amount of $2,876,000 gross ($2,712,000 net) is estimated as the cost per month of MINURSO operation based on the total costs over the first six-month period since inception. Annex IV provides additional details of the estimated total costs for the period from 1 December 1991 to 29 February 1992.

16. The costs estimated for MINURSO for the three-month period from 1 December 1991 to 29 February 1992 amount to $8,628,000 gross ($8,136,000 net). A balance of $84,027,000 gross ($81,985,000 net) will remain from the initial appropriation of $143 million gross ($140 million net) provided under Assembly resolution 45/266 at the end of February 1992 under this assumption, as shown in table 2.

Table 2

Projected balance of appropriation and expenditure as at 29 February 1992

	United States dollars	
	Gross	Net
Amount appropriated	143 000 000	140 000 000
Less:		
Estimated costs (17 May-30 Nov. 91)	(50 345 000)	(49 879 000)
Projected costs (1 Dec. 91-29 Feb. 92)	(8 628 000)	(8 136 000)
Projected balance (29 Feb. 92)	84 027 000	81 985 000

VI. ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

17. As stipulated in paragraph 5 of resolution 45/266, the General Assembly would need to take action on the appropriations required to finance MINURSO for the remaining period of its mandate. The Secretary-General is of the view, however, that given the progress so far in resolving the outstanding difficulties with certain aspects of the implementation plan as discussed above, and bearing in mind that more than half of the initial appropriation for MINURSO still remains unutilized, the Assembly may wish to defer action on the additional financing of MINURSO until a further financing report is presented to the Assembly.

Notes

1/ S/22464 and Corr.1.

2/ S/23008.

3/ S/23009.

ANNEX I

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Performance report for the period from 17 May to 30 November 1991

Summary statement

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	Initial apportionment	Costs through 30 Nov 91	Balance
1. Military personnel costs			
(a) Military observers			
Mission subsistence allowance	5 345	1 243	4 102
Travel	1 508	778	730
Clothing and equipment allowance	63	21	42
	6 916	2 042	4 874
(b) Other military personnel			
Costs reimbursable to Governments	3 678	386	3 292
Daily allowance paid to troops	91	-	91
Emplacement, rotation and repatriation travel	543	147	396
Rations/mission subsistence	3 192	229	2 963
Welfare	32	17	15
	7 536	779	6 757
2. Civilian personnel costs			
(a) Civilian police			
Mission subsistence allowance	1 622	4	1 618
Travel	822	3	819
	2 444	7	2 437
(b) Government provided personnel			
Mission subsistence allowance	682	-	682
Travel	674	-	674
	1 356	-	1 356
(c) OAU representatives and tribal chiefs			
Travel and allowances	390	4	386

	Initial apportionment	Costs through 30 Nov 91	Balance
(d) International and local staff			
Salaries - international staff	9 293	1 574	7 719
Salaries - Local staff	941	10	931
Common staff costs	6 954	1 161	5 793
Mission subsistence allowance	6 074	508	5 566
Travel	540	330	210
	23 802	3 583	20 219
3. Premises/accommodation			
Rental and maintenance of premises	2 142	90	2 052
Utilities	457	15	442
Prefabricated buildings	24 982	14 540	10 442
	27 581	14 645	12 936
4. Ground transportation			
Vehicle acquisition	20 513	9 330	11 183
Rental of vehicles	229	3	226
Repair and maintenance	571	262	309
Petrol, oil and lubricants	2 136	52	2 084
Vehicle insurance	80	29	51
Workshop equipment	228	15	213
	23 757	9 691	14 066
5. Air operations			
Helicopters	12 005	1 051	10 954
Fixed-wing aircraft	4 670	853	3 817
	16 675	1 904	14 771
6. Communications			
Communications equipment	10 956	7 350	3 606
Test/workshop equipment	457	146	311
Supplies and spare parts	571	569	2
Generators	1 095	930	165
Commercial communications	1 149	221	928
	14 228	9 216	5 012
7. Miscellaneous equipment	3 962	2 369	1 593

		Initial apportionment	Costs through 30 Nov 91	Balance
8.	Supplies and services			
	Contractual services	1 947	18	1 929
	General supplies	1 713	1 216	497
	Miscellaneous services	57	11	46
	Clothing, uniform and accoutrements	228	112	116
	Official hospitality	17	2	15
		3 962	1 359	2 603
9.	Freight and related costs			
	Positioning of military units	3 997	1 365	2 632
	Freight and clearing costs	1 371	892	479
		5 368	2 257	3 111
10.	Support account for peace-keeping operations	2 023	2 023	-
11.	Staff assessment	3 000	466	2 534
	GROSS TOTAL, lines 1-11	143 000	50 345	92 655
12.	Income from staff assessment	(3 000)	(466)	(2 534)
	NET TOTAL	140 000	49 879	90 121

ANNEX II

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Supplementary information on the performance report
for the period from 17 May to 30 November 1991

	Balance $
1. Military personnel costs	11 631 000

The operational plan for MINURSO calls for the deployment, for varying periods, of up to 1,695 military personnel consisting of 550 military observers, an infantry battalion of 700, an air support unit of 110, a signals unit of 45, a medical unit of 50, a military police company of 40 and a logistics battalion of 200. The present military strength of the mission is 333, and it is expected that this number will remain unchanged through the end of February 1992. The current number of personnel are: 234 military observers, a signals unit of 37, a movement control detachment of 12 and a medical unit of 50.

The balance for the major budget lines within this expenditure group, resulting from the current reduced strength figures, are: $4,874,000 for military observers travel, subsistence, daily allowance, clothing and equipment allowance and $6,757,000 for military contingents, including costs reimbursable to governments ($3,292,000).

2. Civilian personnel costs	24 398 000

A total of 561 international posts were authorized for MINURSO, only 132 of these posts are presently filled. For details, please refer to the attached annex. Only limited local staff have been employed at this time and mostly as general temporary assistance.

The total balance of $24,398,000 includes balances totalling $20,609,000 resulting from the current 458 vacancies as follows: $8,650,000 for salaries, $5,793,000 for common staff costs, $5,566,000 for mission subsistence allowance, and $210,000 for other official travel.

The other sub-groups under civilian personnel costs are:

(a) Civilian police - only the Chief Police Commissioner of the planned 300 police officers is presently with the mission, and this sub-group shows a balance of $2,437,000;

(b) The operational plan called for the deployment of up to 280 government-provided personnel. None have been required, and the funds made available ($1,356,000) are left intact; and

(c) Representatives from the Organization of African Unity and tribal chiefs - only $4,000 have been expended under this heading leaving a balance of $386,000.

3. Premises and accommodation 12 936 000

The budget of MINURSO provides for the purchase of prefabricated buildings for living and office accommodation, as well as for workshops and storage facilities at the mission headquarters and at the field stations. This procurement programme, budgeted for at $24,982,000, has been curtailed awaiting clarification as to how the operational plans will proceed. Prefabricated structures valued at $14,540,000 have been purchased at this time, leaving a balance for this budget line of $10,442,000. Units valued at about $2,500,000 are held in storage outside the mission area.

Expenditures for rental and utilities have been limited, since both office and living accommodation has been provided free of charge by the parties until the present. The combined balance for these two budget lines are $2,494,000.

4. Transport operations 14 066 000

505 of the 824 vehicles budgeted for have been procured at this time at a cost of $9,330,000, leaving an unencumbered balance of $11,183,000. 135 of the vehicles purchased are in use in this mission area, whereas 57 are stored outside the mission and 313 are held in reserve in the area.

A balance of $309,000 is left in the budget line for vehicle spare parts, repairs and maintenance, and the line for petrol, oil and lubricants shows a balance of $2,084,000, since most fuel so far has been provided by the parties.

The other budget lines within this expenditure group, covering rental of vehicles, third party liability insurance and rental of vehicles, all show low expenditures and a combined balance of $490,000.

5. Air operations 14 771 000

The mission presently has the following types of aircraft at its disposal: four medium/utility helicopters, two light cargo aircraft and one passenger/liaison aircraft. All are chartered commercially. The number of aircraft budgeted for was 12.

The 7 aircraft presently with the mission arrived during the first and second week of September 1991 and the requirements for hire charges, aviation fuel and other related costs through 30 November 1991 have been projected at $1,904,000, leaving a balance of $14,771,000.

6. Communications 5 012 000

The procurement programme for communications equipment has also been curtailed. Equipment valued at $7,350,000 has been purchased and is nearly all shipped to the mission area. Only about half of the purchased equipment is presently in use, whereas the rest is held in storage. The budgetline for communications equipment reflects a balance of $3,606,000.

Generators valued at $930,000 have been purchased at this time, which leaves a balance of $165,000. 31 of the units purchased are presently held in storage outside the mission area.

Test and workshop equipment for a total of $146,000 has been purchased, leaving $311,000 uncommitted. Funds for communications supplies and spare parts have been fully utilized. Expenditures for commercial communications are projected at $221,000, which will leave a balance of $928,000 by the end of November 1991.

7. Miscellaneous other equipment 1 593 000

A total of $2,369,000 has been committed against this expenditure group, leaving a balance of $1,593,000. The expenditures have fallen in the following sub-groups: $1,402,000 for office furniture and equipment plus accommodation and mess furniture, $360,000 for fuel and water storage facilities, plus $475,000 for miscellaneous other equipment. An additional $312,000 has been expended for spare parts for the equipment purchased.

8. Supplies and services 2 603 000

The total projected cost through 30 November 1991 is $1,359,000, which will leave $2,603,000 unencumbered. A breakdown of the balance, by budget line, follows: $1,929,000 under contractual services, $497,000 for general supplies, $116,000 for uniforms, and $61,000 for miscellaneous services, including hospitality.

9. Freight and related costs 3 111 000

A total of $2,257,000 has been committed for airlifts, positioning of the medical units with its equipment, air and sea freight plus various costs for clearing and storage. The balance shown ($3,111,000) is primarily the result of the non-deployment, until the present time, of the major military components of MINURSO.

10. Support account for peace-keeping operations -

The amount authorized has been transferred to the support account for peace-keeping operations.

11. Staff assessment 2 534 000

The balance ($2,534,000) reflects low occupancy of posts authorized for the operation.

ANNEX III

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Authorized staffing table

Grade	Authorized	Filled	Vacant
Professional category and above			
USG	1	1	-
ASG	2	2	-
D-2	3	3	-
D-1	5	3	2
P-5	15	12	3
P-4/2	154	14	140
Sub-total	180	35	145
General Service and other categories			
General Service	248	40	208
Field Service	133	57	76
Local level	459	a/	459
Sub-total	840	97	743
TOTAL	1 020	132	888
Military component			
Military observers	550	234	316
Infantry - 1 battalion	700	-	700
Air support unit	110	-	110
Signals unit	45	37	8
Medical unit	50	50	-
Military police	40	-	40
Logistics contingent	200	12	188
TOTAL	1 695	333	1 362
Civilian police	300	1	299

a/ A limited number of local staff are engaged.

ANNEX IV

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Estimated cost of maintaining MINURSO for three months at current strength for period 1 December 1991 to 29 February 1992

(In thousands of United States dollars)

1.	**Military personnel costs**	
	(a) **Military observers**	
	Subsistence allowance and limited travel	1 405
	(b) **Other military personnel**	
	Standard troop costs	336
	Subsistence allowance	586
	Travel and welfare	8
		2 335
2.	**Civilian personnel costs**	
	(a) **Civilian police**	6
	(b) **Government provided personnel**	-
	(c) **Representative of OAU and tribal chiefs**	50
	(d) **International and local staff**	
	Salaries - international staff	1 665
	Salaries - local staff	15
	Common staff costs	913
	Subsistence allowance	622
	Travel of staff	30
		3 301
3.	**Premises/accommodation**	
	(a) Rental and maintenance	45
	(b) Utilities	15
	(c) Construction, ground preparations	60
		120

4.	Transport operations	
	(a) Repairs and maintenance	30
	(b) Petrol, oil and lubricants	40
		70
5.	Air operations	
	(a) Basic hire charges - helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft	1 800
	(b) Aviation fuel, ground handling	150
		1 950
6.	Communications	
	(a) Communication supplies, installation work	25
	(b) Commercial communications, including pouches	150
		175
7.	Miscellaneous equipment	50
8.	Supplies and services	
	(a) Contractual and other services	30
	(b) General supplies	75
		105
9.	Freight and related costs	30
10.	Staff assessment	492
	TOTAL GROSS (lines 1-10)	8 678
11.	Income from staff assessment	(492)
	TOTAL NET	8 136

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General Assembly

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Agenda items 98 (b) and 107

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Programme budget implications of draft resolution I recommended by the Third Committee in its report (A/46/721/Add.1, para. 28)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahmoud BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

1. At its 53rd meeting, on 16 December 1991, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/67) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution I recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 28 of its report (A/46/721/Add.1). The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions presented the Committee's report orally.

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

2. The Fifth Committee decided, without a vote, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution I recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 28 of its report (A/46/721/Add.1), no additional appropriation would be required at this stage.

91-49543 0752P (E)

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Agenda items 78 and 107

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/728, para. 9)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahmoud BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

1. At its 53rd meeting, on 16 December 1991, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/72) on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report (A/46/728). The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman.

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

2. The Fifth Committee decided, without a vote, to inform the General Assembly, that should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report (A/46/728), no additional appropriation or programmatic changes would be required.

91-49549 0754P (E)

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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Programme budget implications of draft resolution VII recommended by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/645/Add.2, para. 40)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahmoud BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

1. At its 53rd meeting, on 16 December 1991, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/66) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution VII recommended by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/645/Add.2). The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions were presented orally by its Chairman.

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

2. The Fifth Committee decided, without a vote, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution VII recommended by the Second Committee in its report, 1/ no additional resources would be required under sections 32 and 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

1/ A/46/645, para. 40.

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Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 16 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning contained in paragraph 256 of its report on its twenty-seventh session and to the note verbale dated 18 July 1991 from the Permanent Mission of Madagascar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council (A/1991/120). On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Malagasy Government endorses the recommendation on the inclusion of Madagascar in the group of least developed countries.

I should be grateful if you would take this letter as an expression of Madagascar's due consent, as set forth in draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.101, adopted by the Second Committee at its 58th meeting on 11 December 1991.

Accordingly, the Malagasy delegation wishes to have Madagascar added to the list of countries contained in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution which the Second Committee will submit for adoption by the General Assembly under agenda item 12. I should be grateful if you would draw the attention of the General Assembly to the contents of this letter when it takes up the question for consideration.

(Signed) Blaise RABETAFIKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

91-49507 2839h (E)

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 33
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 16 December 1991 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I should like to draw your attention, as a matter of urgency, to further attacks carried out by the Israeli Government and settlers against the Holy Places and Palestinian property in East Jerusalem and adjoining neighbourhoods.

According to a report by the Reuters news agency dated 12 December 1991, approximately 30 Jewish settlers, protected by large numbers of police, forced an entry into six houses belonging to Palestinians in Silwan, an Arab neighbourhood situated in East Jerusalem, and expelled the occupants. The settlers moved into the neighbourhood following a decision by the Israeli Cabinet which authorized them to remain in Silwan after they had attempted for two months to dispossess Palestinian owners of their homes. According to The New York Times of 13 December, this act of usurpation was encouraged and financed by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon. As reported by the same newspaper, in the last few years, Jewish nationalist movements with Government backing have taken over houses in the Old City's Muslim and Christian quarters.

On 7 December, the Supreme Islamic Committee of Jerusalem published a statement in which it pointed out that the Israeli authorities, under the supervision of high-ranking police officials, had closed the portal of the mosque of the Ottoman School, a famous Islamic site situated in the precinct of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. According to the Supreme Islamic Committee, Israel was thereby attempting to conceal work carried out by the Israeli authorities in a gallery situated in the western part of the Haram al-Sharif wall, inside the precinct of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and was also trying to prevent the Islamic Waqf from closing the passage leading to the gallery.

On 19 November, the Information Centre on Human Rights in Palestine, which is based in Jerusalem, reported that on the previous day, Israeli information officers and elements from the special forces and frontier guards had broken into the Islamic Court and other premises situated in Salah el-Din Street in East Jerusalem and that they had seized archives dating back 500 years and connected with the history of Jerusalem, some of which related to the ownership of land and buildings.

On behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I should like to express the gravest concern at these acts by the Israeli authorities and settlers, which constitute on the part of Israel a violation of its obligations as the occupying Power under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. These acts are also contrary to the provisions of numerous Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 271 (1969), 298 (1971) and 476 (1980), concerning the Holy Places and religious buildings in Jerusalem, and resolutions 446 (1979), 452 (1979) and 465 (1980), concerning settlement activities by Israel, and they represent a serious obstruction to the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Committee therefore addresses an urgent appeal to you as well as all the parties concerned to see that all the necessary measures are taken in order to induce Israel, the occupying Power, to put an end to all its illegal settlement activities, ensure respect for the Holy Places and guarantee protection of the Palestinians and their property in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Absa Claude DIALLO
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People